

The Honourable Senator Copp, from the Joint Committee of the Senate and the House of Commons on relations between the Federal Government and the City of Ottawa, presented their second and final Report.

The same was then read by the Clerk, as follows:—

TUESDAY, 1st August, 1944.

The Joint Committee of the Senate and the House of Commons appointed to review the special problems arising out of the location of the seat of government in the City of Ottawa and to report on the relations between the Federal Government and Municipal authorities of the said city and their relative responsibilities in respect of such problems with power to inquire into the matter and things therein referred to, beg leave to make their second and final Report, as follows:—

In response to the reference contained in the resolution calling for the appointment of a Joint Committee of the Senate and House of Commons for the purpose of investigating relations between the Federal Government and the City of Ottawa, which resolution has been adopted by both Houses of Parliament, seven public sessions of the Committee have been held. Evidence has been heard and recorded from His Worship the Mayor, members of the Board of Control, the Board of Aldermen, and staff officials of the City of Ottawa, the Ottawa Board of Trade, the Chairman and officials of the Federal District Commission, and the Secretary of the Federal Department of Public Works. In addition, private sessions of the Committee have been held to consider the evidence, make recommendations and discuss the drafting of a Report to Parliament.

The problem which has confronted the Committee was twofold. In the first place, the immediate request from the City of Ottawa to have its annual grant from the Federal Government increased, represented the first question that had to be answered; and secondly, there arose the longer term question of the future planning of this Capital City in conjunction with the so-called Federal District.

In the discussion of both phases of the problem as presented to the Committee by all of the witnesses, an admirable spirit of co-operation was reflected in the commonly expressed desire to have the Capital city of Canada made worthily representative in every respect of the Dominion which it has been designed to serve. Sympathetic consideration was also given by these same witnesses to the abnormal conditions created by the war and their effect upon the finances alike of the City and the Dominion.

To deal first with the City's immediate case, the claim for an increased federal grant, as made by His Worship the Mayor and his special committee, was based on the following grounds:—

1. The large increase in the value of Government property from 1925 to 1943.
2. The large amount of taxable property in the City expropriated by the Government from 1925 to 1943 from which the City now receives no revenue, but which it is still required to serve.
3. The street frontage of Government owned property has now increased to 9.3 miles (not including streets owned by the Government) which is almost twice the street frontage of Government property in 1925.
4. That the population of Ottawa, due to special war services established by the Federal Government, has increased from 145,000 in 1939 to 185,000 in 1944.